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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Lebanon/Palestine

DATE DISTR. 8 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Appeal of Greek Orthodox Refugees  
to Solid

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1. Between 10 and 12 January 1949, Yaqub Hanna and a member of the Greek Orthodox Community identified only as "Raja" went to the Greek Orthodox Bishopric at Hadath and met with Daniel Solod, Soviet Minister in Beirut; Ra'if Khuri, a Lebanese employee of the Soviet Legation; and Archbishop Ilyas Karam. According to source, Hanna is a Palestinian refugee, a priest of the Greek Orthodox Community, and head of the Greek Orthodox al-Ihsan (Charity) Society in Beirut. Source also states that he is in contact with the Soviet Legation.
2. The group discussed the necessity for the Soviet Union to give aid to the Christian refugees in Lebanon and Syria, and it also discussed the awqaf (religious endowments) of the Community from the churches and schools which are now in Jewish hands. Hanna drew Solod's attention to the fact that, while the Soviet Mission in Palestine is interested in these awqaf and has communicated with the Israeli authorities about them, it has done nothing about the private property of members of the Orthodox Community and of other Christians who were forced to flee from Palestine, source says, more through fear of the Arabs than of the Jews.
3. Hanna presented a number of appeals signed by the Christian refugees, which stated that they wish to return to their homes in Palestine, whether under Arab or Jewish domination; that they prefer death there to life outside Palestine as refugees, and that, therefore, they seek Soviet sympathy.
4. Solod promised that he would inform his Government and the Soviet Legation in Tel Aviv, so that necessary steps might be taken.

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